

Introduced by Senator Ortiz
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Frommer)
(Coauthors: Senators Escutia and Scott)

February 20, 2001

An act to add Section 116365.5 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to drinking water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 351, as introduced, Ortiz. Public health: drinking water: hexavalent chromium standard.

Existing law requires the department of health services to be responsible for ensuring that all public water systems are operated in compliance with both federal and state law, and the department is directed to enforce the law for all public water systems.

Existing law requires the department to determine the levels of hexavalent chromium (chromium-6) in the drinking water which is supplied by the public water systems in specified locations. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment is also required to assess the exposures risks to the public due to the levels of hexavalent chromium determined.

This bill would require the department to adopt a primary drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium. The standard must be adopted by January 1, 2004, and a report on the progress of developing the standard must be provided to the Legislature by January 1, 2003. This bill would also require the adoption of a secondary drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium by July 1, 2003.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 116365.5 is added to the Health and
2 Safety Code, to read:

3 116365.5. (a) The Department of Health Services shall
4 commence the process for adopting a primary drinking water
5 standard for hexavalent chromium that complies with the criteria
6 established under Section 116365.

7 (b) The department shall report to the Legislature on its
8 progress in developing a primary drinking standard for hexavalent
9 chromium by January 1, 2003.

10 (c) The department shall establish a primary drinking water
11 standard for hexavalent chromium on or before January 1, 2004.

12 (d) On or before July 1, 2003, the department shall adopt a
13 secondary drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium that
14 complies with the criteria established under subdivision (d) of
15 Section 116275 and that does not exceed a consumer acceptance
16 level for hexavalent chromium.

